



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Gary K. Michelson)
Serial No.: (Div. of 09/022,293)) (Group Art Unit: 3731)
Filed: July 17, 2000) (Examiner: D. Reip)
For: Anterior Cervical Plating System,)
Instrumentation, and Method of)
Installation)

#1A

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the above-referenced application.

Unless otherwise indicated, copies of the listed documents were previously submitted or cited by the Examiner in a prior application, serial no. 09/022,293, filing date February 11, 1998, upon which applicant relies for the benefits provided in 35 U.S.C. § 120. Documents not previously submitted in the '293 application are listed below, a copy of each being attached herewith:

- U.S. Patent No. 4,651,724 to Berentey et al.;
- U.S. Patent No. 5,041,113 to Biedermann et al.;
- U.S. Patent No. 5,053,036 to Perren et al.;
- U.S. Patent No. 5,190,544 to Chapman et al.; and
- U.S. Patent No. 5,531,746 to Errico et al.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicant(s) determine(s) that the cited document(s) do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant also brings to the Examiner's attention Applicant's co-pending application Serial No. 09/022,344 filed 2/11/98.

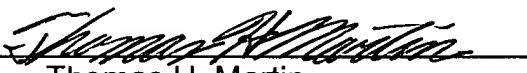
Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-1066.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTIN & FERRARO, LLP

Date: July 17, 2000

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